

THE  
Thurrock Urban District Council

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE  
Chief Sanitary Inspector  
For the Year 1952

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GRAYS.  
HIGGINS LTD., PRINTING CONTRACTORS  
1953.



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URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

Dr. W. T. G. BOUL, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., F.Z.S.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

L. CULLISS (1, 2, 3)

Officer under Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. Inspector under Shops Acts.

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

H. A. GOSLING (1, 2, 3)

*Sanitary Inspectors :*

R. A. BULL (1, 2, 3)

J. H. ASH (1, 2)

F. H. MUMMERY (1, 2)

1. Indicates Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate, Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
3. Certificate, Smoke Inspection.

*Chief Clerk—Sanitary Inspectors' Department :*

R. THOMPSON, D.P.A., M.R.I., P.H.H.

*Clerical Assistants :*

Mrs. D. SAYERS

Mrs. I. BINCLIFFE (Resigned July, 1952)

Mrs. E. BROWN

Mrs. J. WHITNEY

*Mortuary Attendant :*

F. J. COSBY

*Pest Operative*

D. W. BEADLE (Resigned December, 1952)

# THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
34 CRESTHILL AVENUE,  
GRAYS, ESSEX.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1952, and my twenty-eighth Annual Report for the district as a whole.

I am very much indebted to the whole of the members of the staff of the Public Health Department and should wish to place on record, for the information of the Council, my appreciation of the work they have carried out during the year under review. I should also like to place on record my gratitude for the continued support of members of the Council, and Officials of other Departments.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. T. G. BOUL,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Land Area (in acres)	...	...	...	40,000
Product of rd. Rate	...	...	£2,229 5s. 10d.	
Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	86,730
No. of Separately Rated Dwelling Houses or Flats	...	...	...	23,863

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	764	733	1497
Illegitimate	...	35	37	72
				<u>1569</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... 18.1

Deaths.		M.	F.	Total
		410	315	725

Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population ... 8.4

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age ... 24.2

Deaths from Suicide ... 13

Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents ... 4

Deaths from other accidents ... 23

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Routine examination of milk, water and ice-cream supplies were carried out by the Public Health Laboratories, Balmoral Avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 47).

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASES	Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Scabies ...	I	I	—
Scarlet Fever ...	293	25	—
Dysentery ...	41	30	—
Pneumonia ...	32	10	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	19	I	—
Chicken Pox ...	66	—	—
Measles ...	695	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	338	—	—
Erysipelas ...	6	5	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	22	22	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	8	8	—
Food Poisoning ...	2	2	—
Para-Typhoid " B " ...	2	2	—
Mumps ...	I	—	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	I	I	—
Croup ...	I	I	—
Diphtheria ...	I	I	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	I	I	—
German Measles ...	20	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	8	8	—



# AGE GROUPS, 1952

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DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. up.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	2	4	19	40	24	189	13	1	2	...	...	...	294
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	9	1	3	...	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	18	1	...	...	22
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	2	4	1	1	5	4	10	5	32
Dysentery ...	...	4	...	5	4	17	4	2	2	3	...	...	41
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	6
Whooping Cough	26	35	49	44	57	116	3	...	7	1	...	...	338
Measles ...	16	65	85	84	82	350	7	1	4	1	...	...	695
Para-Typhoid "B"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Chicken Pox ...	1	...	4	9	5	35	6	3	2	1	...	...	66
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Mumps ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scabies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Croup ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
German Measles ...	...	...	...	...	3	15	1	...	1	...	...	...	20

*Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.*

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.*

No action was taken under the above headings.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 years	3	4	3	2	...	...	...	...
5-15 "	...	3	4	3	...	...	...	...
15-25 "	16	31	...	...	...	1	...	...
25-35 "	25	34	1	2	2	1	...	...
35-45 "	13	12	...	...	...	2	...	...
45-55 "	12	3	...	...	1	1	...	...
55-65 "	3	...	...	...	3	1	...	...
65 " } upwards }	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
Totals	77	88	8	7	6	8	...	...

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are 596 cesspools, 671 pail closets in the area.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following report has been furnished to me by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

	Visits paid
Dwelling Houses ... ..	4227
Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	96
Infectious Disease ... ..	646
Caravans ... ..	171
Factories (Mechanical) ... ..	131
Factories (Non-Mechanical) ... ..	9
Outworkers ... ..	25
Bakehouses ... ..	55
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	41
Fish Shops ... ..	14
Butchers' Shops ... ..	74
Common Lodging Houses ... ..	9
Atmospheric Pollution (including Smoke Abatement) ...	9
Refuse Tips and Accumulations ... ..	199
Slaughterhouses ... ..	34
Knackers' Yards ... ..	4
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	69
Stables and Pig Styes ... ..	26
Samples—Milk ... ..	623
Samples—Ice Cream ... ..	227
Samples—Water ... ..	11
Samples—Swimming Baths ... ..	8
Rat Suppression ... ..	2719
Food Preparation Premises ... ..	405
Dustbins ... ..	124
Food Sampling ... ..	447
Food Inspection ... ..	326
Shops Acts—Inspections ... ..	282
Schools ... ..	3
Licensed Premises ... ..	11
Samples—Rinsings ... ..	9
Old-Metal Dealers ... ..	11
Pet Animals Act ... ..	8
Houseboats ... ..	7

## DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

There are within the area 9 registered dairies as defined by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and 63 licensed persons who retail milk in the sealed receptacles in which it is received at the premises. In addition to the foregoing, four outside firms carry on a vehicular trade within the district.

### *Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.*

Number of persons licensed to sell :—

(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	18
(b) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)		...	5
(c) Accredited Milk ...	...	...	1
(d) Pasteurised Milk	...	...	23
(e) Sterilized	...	...	74

### *Pasteurising Plants.*

There are five pasteurising plants in the district, with capacities of 1,500 gallons per hour in one case and four of 200 gallons per hour.

The larger plant is of the H.T.S.T. type, and the remainder are of the "Holder" type.

The largest plant works with the greatest efficiency, whilst exception cannot be taken to the efficiency of the lesser capacity plants.

### *Samples (Tuberculin Tested).*

119 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were taken, of which 8 were shown to be unsatisfactory, giving a percentage figure of 93.3% satisfactory and 6.7% unsatisfactory.

### *Samples (Pasteurised).*

341 samples of pasteurised milk were taken, 15 of which were unsatisfactory and 17 void. Disregarding the void samples 4.6% were unsatisfactory.

### *Samples Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).*

73 samples of Tuberculin Tested (pasteurised) milk were taken, of which 1 sample was unsatisfactory and 1 void, giving a percentage figure of 98.6% satisfactory and 1.4% unsatisfactory.



*Samples (Sterilised).*

8 samples of sterilised milk were taken, all of which were shown to be satisfactory.

In respect of the foregoing unsatisfactory milk samples, it should be noted there was no sustained case of failure to produce a reasonable milk, all were somewhat sporadic in character.

*Milk—Biological Tests. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.*

56 samples were taken for submission to the biological test with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of tubercule bacilli.

One sample was shown to be positive, and in this connection the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was immediately informed.

In view of the fact that the milk from this farm was already being sent for pasteurisation before sale to the public, no further action was necessary.

**WATER.**

(a) 12 samples of water were taken during the year from the South Essex Waterworks Company's mains and submitted for bacteriological examination. All the samples were shown to be satisfactory. Three samples were also taken and submitted for chemical examination. The hardness in each case was as follows:—

*Sample No. 1*—Total hardness 230 parts per million (175 temporary and 55 permanent).

*Sample No. 2*—(Taken from Southend Water Company's mains). Total hardness 30 parts per million (30 temporary and 0 permanent).

*Sample No. 3*—Total hardness 230 parts per million (175 temporary, 55 permanent).

(b) **STATISTICS—WATER.**

1. During the year, the water supplies of the area have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

2. A detailed report on the bacteriological examination of water supplies will be found under the heading "Water—Samples."
3. There is no domestic water supply in the area liable to plumbosolvent action.
4. (a) Number of dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains direct to the houses ... 23,287  
 Number of population so served ... 86,377
- (b) Number of houses supplied from public water mains by means of standpipes ... 50  
 Estimated population so served ... 180
- (c) Number of houses served by wells or stored rainwater ... 48  
 Estimated population so served ... 173

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

##### Carcases Inspected and Condemned at Slaughterhouses.

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	58
Number inspected	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	58
All diseases, except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcases condemned	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis						
	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.7
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.						
Whole carcases condemned	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis						
	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.7



*Unsound Meat Surrendered.*

31lbs. of meat were confiscated as the result of visits to slaughterhouses for the inspection of cottagers' pigs, etc.

*Slaughterhouses.*

There are no registered slaughterhouses in the area, but there are eight licenced slaughterhouses. No regular slaughtering now takes place, the licensed slaughterhouses being used in connection with the slaughter of cottagers' pigs.

*Knacker's Yards.*

There is only one knacker's yard in the Council's area, and this is periodically visited with a view to ascertaining any contravention of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) (No. 2) Order, 1940, concerning the necessity for staining.

*Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.*

A register of all licensed slaughtermen, pursuant to Section 3 (1) of the above-mentioned Act, is kept, and the number so licensed is 21.

*Miscellaneous Other Foods Surrendered.*

Fruit Juices	... 266 tins	Cheese	... 276 boxes
Fruit	... 2585 tins	„	... 8 lbs.
Tinned Meat	... 2232 tins	Corned Beef	... 6 lbs.
Meat ...	... 6567 lbs.	Pickles...	... 6 jars
Vegetables	... 2889 tins	Pastes ...	... 4 jars
Milk ...	... 548 tins	Bacon ...	... 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Fish (wet)	... 299 lbs.	Cake Mixtures	... 1 pkt.
Tinned Fish	... 1030 tins	Biscuits	... 32 pkts.
Ham ...	... 1172 lbs.	Coffee ...	... 1 tin
Pies ...	... 1	Cocoa ...	... 4 tins
Jam ...	... 176 jars/tins	Margarine	... 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Oranges	... 631	Currants	... 56 lbs.
Soft Drinks	... 1 bottle	Sweets	... 20 ozs.
Beef Extracts	... 2 jars	Peanut Butter	... 2 jars
Soups	... 22 tins	Poultry	... 18 lbs.
Puddings	... 2		

## ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

210 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results :—

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>				Number of Samples	
Grade I	...	...	...	138	
Grade II	...	...	...	47	
Grade III	...	...	...	20	
Grade IV	...	...	...	5	

The standard of ice-cream sold within the Area throughout the year is set out below :—

Producer	Total No. of Samples therefrom	Min. of Health's Provisional Grades				Quality as per Ministerial Standard
		I	II	III	IV	
A.	31	22	8	1	—	Satisfactory
B.	16	13	1	2	—	Satisfactory
C.	22	17	2	2	1	Unsatisfactory
D.	48	25	13	8	2	Unsatisfactory
E.	31	20	8	2	1	Unsatisfactory
F.	5	5	—	—	—	Satisfactory
G.	7	6	1	—	—	Satisfactory
H.	5	4	1	—	—	Satisfactory
I.	1	1	—	—	—	Satisfactory
J.	9	4	3	2	—	Satisfactory
K.	4	1	2	—	1	Unsatisfactory
L.	6	6	—	—	—	Satisfactory
M.	5	4	1	—	—	Satisfactory
N.	3	2	1	—	—	Satisfactory
O.	2	—	2	—	—	Satisfactory
P.	5	4	1	—	—	Satisfactory
Q.	3	2	—	1	—	Unsatisfactory
R.	7	2	3	2	—	Unsatisfactory
TOTALS	210	138	47	20	5	

Producers D., F., and G. are situated within the Urban District. The remaining Producers whilst producing outside the district, retail their supplies within.

It will be noted that Producer D. gave two Grade IV results. In the first case, investigation disclosed the fact that on the morning the sample was taken, it was discovered that the storage room for the ice-cream was at a temperature far above normal, due to a leakage in the pipe from the compressor, and it was felt that this was the possible cause of the unsatisfactory sample. In the second instance the sample was taken from a shop retailing the producer's product, but on investigation it was discovered that the retailer's method of sterilising the serving utensils left much to be desired, and this was felt to be the cause of the failure. The retailer was instructed in the proper methods of sterilisation, and there was no further trouble.

In sampling for ice-cream, an endeavour has been made to obtain a sufficient number of samples so as to arrive at a reasonable conclusion as to their general grade. This, as will be seen, is sometimes impossible owing to the fact that production and subsequent sale is sporadic and infrequent.

Of the total of 210 samples taken, 60 were from local producers, and fell within the following categories:—

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>				Number of Samples
Grade I	...	...	...	36
Grade II	...	...	...	14
Grade III	...	...	...	8
Grade IV	...	...	...	2
Percentage of Grade I samples...				60%
,, , Grades I and II samples				83.3%
,, , Grade III samples				13.3%
,, , IV ,,				3.3%

#### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Number of houses found to be infested	...	9
---------------------------------------	-----	---

The above figure does not include houses on the Council's estates which are supervised by the Council's Housing Department.

(a) The methods employed for freeing infested houses from vermin are as follows:—

The spraying of all rooms and effects with a vermicide containing D.D.T.



(b) The following methods are employed for ensuring the belongings of prospective tenants of Council houses are free from vermin :—

The belongings of prospective Council house tenants are inspected by the members of the Council's Housing Department. If vermin are found to be present, the tenant is not accepted until conditions have been remedied. The tenant is expected to carry out the work of disinfestation, or alternatively, this is carried out by the Local Authority at a charge of 7/6 per room disinfested.

(c) The disinfestation of private houses is carried out by the owners or occupiers under the supervision of the Local Authority. Facilities are offered by the Public Health Department whereby such disinfestation is carried out by them, and a charge is made for this service on the basis indicated above.

## SECTION D.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1284
	(b)	Number of inspections and re-inspections made for that purpose ...	4227
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and reported under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925)...	40
	(b)	Number of inspections and re-inspections made for that purpose ...	202
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit ...	3
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	715

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	480
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## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

(A) *Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served under the Council's Housing Byelaws ...	32
(4) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit as a result thereof (including those outstanding from 1951)...	35

(B) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	273
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (including those outstanding from 1951):—	
(a) By Owners ...	285
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

(C) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	1
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil
(3) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not re-let for human habitation were accepted ...	1
(4) Number of houses in respect of which undertaking to render fit were accepted ...	1
(5) Number of houses so rendered fit ...	1

(D) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit	Nil

In connection with item C (1), This was the subject of an appeal in February, 1953, which was allowed.

## LIST OF WORKS EXECUTED.

## ROOMS :

Dampness remedied	...	...	...	135
Stripped, cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	27
Plaster repaired	...	...	...	297
Floors repaired	...	...	...	120
Windows repaired, renewed or extended	...	...	...	210
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	88
Doors, locks, &c.	...	...	...	50
Vermin disinfested	...	...	...	25
Food stores ventilated and repaired	...	..	..	7

## STAIRCASES :

Stripped and redecorated	...	..	..	12
Handrails fixed	...	..	...	32
Repairs	...	...	.	22
Lighting	...	...	..	2

## SANITARY FITMENTS :

New sinks, &c.	...	..	..	22
Coppers provided or repaired	..	...	...	15
W.C.'s and pail closets repaired	...	...	...	125
New pedestals provided	...	...	...	19
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	..	...	38
Soil or vent pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	11

## DRAINS :

Unstopped or repaired	...	..	...	71
New drains	...	.	...	5
Gullies repaired or renewed	...	..	...	15
Inspection Chambers repaired or inserted	...	...	...	16

## WATER SUPPLIES AND FITTINGS :

Repaired or renewed	...	...	..	14
New services	...	...	...	1



## EXTERNAL WORKS:

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	171
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	149
Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	41
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	8
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	33
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	18
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	3

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OVERCROWDING.

During the year 96 investigations were made from which it was ascertained that 18 cases of overcrowding occurred. These were referred to the Housing Department for Council Houses when available. Additional cases of overcrowding were discovered by the Housing Department in connection with investigations carried out under the Council's "Points" scheme regarding Council house applicants. The total number of cases of overcrowding abated by the Local Authority during the year was 13.

## COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year, 1051 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every complaint was investigated with the minimum delay, and action taken thereon, where this was deemed to be necessary.

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

## Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	22	9	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	279	131	20	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	301	140	21	Nil

## Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	6	6	—	3	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient ...	5	* 4	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	† 8	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	5	5	—	4	—
Totals ...	26	24	—	10	Nil

\* Will be provided when factory extension is made.

† Delayed pending re-submission of plans.

## OUTWORK.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, and the number so registered is 18.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Pest Operative deals with all complaints of infestations as soon as they are received. In connection with disinfectations, private dwelling-houses are treated free of cost, whilst trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus 100% establishment charges. In addition, the Pest Operative carries out monthly treatments at the Council's sewage works and refuse tips, and if available, assists the Engineer and Surveyor's Department when engaged on the treatment of sewers.

The following are statistics in relation to the work of the Pest Operative:—

Visits to Private Dwelling-houses	...	...	1962
Visits to Trade Premises	...	...	261
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	...	...	221

## FOOD AND DRUGS REPORT.

The following samples of food and drugs were taken during the year :—

Article	Number of Formal Samples	Number of Informal Samples	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Cough syrups, etc.	6	3	8	1
Pickles	3	—	—	—
Sweets	2	1	—	—
Sandwich spread	2	—	—	—
Milk	52	1	48	5
Ginger	1	—	—	—
Figs	1	—	—	—
Pork sausages	18	1	17	2
Pork sausage meat	—	1	1	—
Beef saugages	12	—	12	—
Beef saugage meat	8	—	8	—
Malt extract	—	1	1	—
Soft drinks	6	—	6	—
Rice	2	—	2	—
Coffee	3	—	3	—
Arrowroot	1	—	1	—
Chlorophyll Pills	—	1	1	—
Potato crisps	—	1	1	—
Pepper	1	—	1	—
Pastes	1	—	1	—
Cake Mixtures, etc.	3	2	5	—
Cheese	3	—	3	—
Jellies	2	1	3	—
Flour	—	3	3	—
Custard Powder	1	—	1	—
Coconut	1	—	1	—
Soups	1	1	2	—
Mustard	—	2	2	—



Article	Number of Formal Samples	Number of Informal Samples	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Glacé cherries	1	—	1	—
Crab	2	1	3	—
Spices	1	—	1	—
Epsom salts	1	—	1	—
Ice-cream	3	—	3	—
Jam, etc.	8	1	9	—
Vinegar	1	1	1	1
Tea	3	—	3	—
Butter	1	—	1	—
Ice lollies	—	10	10	—
Bicarbonate of soda	1	—	1	—
Limes	1	—	1	—
Sauce	3	—	3	—
Aspirin tablets	1	1	2	—
Flavourings	1	—	1	—
Gelatine	1	—	1	—
Margarine	1	—	1	—
Swiss roll	1	—	1	—
Cheese straws	1	—	1	—
Saccharin tablets	1	—	1	—
Pepper compound	—	1	1	—
Tapioca	2	—	2	—
Synthetic cream	1	—	1	—
Baby cereal	—	1	1	—
Glucose	1	—	1	—
Syrup of figs	1	—	1	—
Olive oil	1	—	1	—
Suet	1	—	1	—
Groats	—	1	1	—
Jellied Veal	1	—	1	—
Cocoa	1	—	1	—
Totals	172	36	198	10

### NON-GENUINE SAMPLES.

In regard to the five non-genuine sample of milk, in one instance samples were taken as a result of complaint from an army camp. As the investigations made proved to be too inconclusive, the matter was not proceeded with further.

Concerning the remaining four instances, these samples were taken from one farm's supply, and proceedings were taken. The defendant was placed on probation for one year, costs being awarded against him.

Regarding the two non-genuine samples of sausages, the deficiency in meat content was 10.5%, and 12% respective, and since these were first offences, warning letters were sent.

In the case of the non-genuine sample of vinegar, the analyst reported that this was not vinegar but acetic acid, and the word "vinegar" should not have been used on the label. Investigations showed that the firm in question had previously given instructions to their staff that the labels should be amended so as to exclude the word "vinegar" but that their instructions had been misinterpreted. This explanation was considered to be a reasonable one, but nevertheless a warning letter was sent to the firm.

The non-genuine sample of lung syrup was, in effect, an error of labelling. The matter was taken up with the firm concerned, who promised to correct the error when fresh labels were printed.

### FOOD POISONING.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning in the district during the year.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The information given below is intended to supplement the information given under specific headings in this report concerning action taken in regard to the inspection of all places where food is prepared and sold.

Number of Inspections made to Food Premises (including restaurants, hotel kitchens, food factories and school canteens).	...	...	... 659
Number of notices served	...	...	... 34
Number of notices complied with	...	...	... 19



*Improvements Effected.*

Utensils cleansed	...	...	...	2
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	2
Windows cleansed	...	...	...	1
Water heaters provided	...	...	...	4
Sinks provided or repaired	...	...	...	2
Water supplies provided	...	...	...	1
Soap and towels provided	...	...	...	1
Rooms cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	8
W.C.'s cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	5
New drains provided	...	...	...	2
New W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	1
Shelves and Counters cleansed	...	...	...	2
Cooking ranges cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	1
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	3
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	6

## BYE-LAWS.

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were made by the Council on 16th August, 1950.

*Clean Food Campaign Circulars.*

In investigating a complaint associated with blistering the mouth in young children, analysis was made of various ice lollies, when it was found in one or two isolated cases that lollies of excessive acidity were being retailed. It was also disclosed that the use of dry ice as a refrigerant resulted in the sale of lollies of such an extreme temperature as to produce a burn. Both of these possibilities were brought to the notice of the various retailers by a circular letter, and thereafter no further instances of blistering of the mouth were noted.

*Regulation 20, Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

No action under this Regulation was found to be necessary during the year.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year, three complaints of excessive smoke emission were investigated. In the first case, it was found that the main complaint was not so much in regard to the smoke emission, but rather in regard to the smell of burning paint from materials being smelted down. However, the firm agreed to measures being taken for the reduction of fumes and, further, to an extension of the chimney.

In the second instance, it was discovered that the firm was without a supply of coke, which it was customary to use, and that coal had been used in lieu. The position was improved when a further supply of coke was received, and the firm also agreed to extend the chimney stack.

Investigations into the third case proved that the excessive smoke emission was due to faulty firing by the stokers. The matter was taken up with the firm concerned, who arranged for the stokers to be given instruction in the correct methods of firing, and also issued manuals on the subject to the persons concerned.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

#### *Section 9. Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.*

One case was taken under this Section, in connection with the sale of milk to which water had been added. For the Defence, it was pleaded that the water gained access to the milk via a faulty cooler, and this plea was accepted. The defendant was given one year's conditional discharge, and costs were awarded against him.

#### *Section 3 and 9. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

Two cases were taken under the above Sections, as under:—

- (1) Concerning the sale of bananas which were unfit for human consumption. In this case the defendant was fined £5, with one guinea costs.
- (2) Concerning the sale of a bottle of milk containing a snail. The defendant was fined a total of £10.

#### *Section 83. Public Health Act, 1936.*

One case was taken under this section, in regard to the filthy premises. The defendant was placed on probation for one year.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950.

During the year, 282 visits were paid to shops within the District. One case was discovered of employment in excess of the statutory period in connection with young persons. The circumstances of the case were considered by the Council, when it was decided a strong warning letter be sent.

In eleven cases, informal notices were served concerning the provision and display of notices as required by the above-mentioned Act, and these were complied with.

Informal notices were also served in connection with the following :—

- |   |   |   |   |            |
|---|---|---|---|------------|
| (a) Ventilation                             | - | - | - | 2 notices. |
| (b) Accumulations of refuse                 | - | - | - | 2 notices. |
| (c) W.C. ventilation into food rooms        | - | - | - | 1 notice.  |
| (d) Separate W.C. accommodation for females | - | - | - | 1 notice.  |
| (e) Means of heating                        | - | - | - | 1 notice.  |

All notices were complied with.

L. CULLISS,  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

